

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A variable power assist apparatus for vehicles, such as automobiles. The apparatus includes a plurality of sensors, preferably electromechanical transducers, mounted to the hand-grippable region of a steering wheel. The sensors are connected to a computer that controls the power-assist device of the automobile, and produce a signal
5 that is a function of grip pressure. The computer varies the amount of assist provided to the steering system as a function of at least the grip pressure.